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For Immediate Release

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Orion Energy Systems Endorses National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency

Plan's emissions reductions could equal removing 35 million cars from the road

Plymouth, WI—On July 31, 2006, the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (NAPEE) was unveiled at a national meeting of regulatory utility commissioners in San Francisco, CA. The plan was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environment Protection Agency together with 50 leading electric and gas utilities, state utility commissioners, state air agencies, energy service providers, energy consumers, and energy efficiency and consumer advocates. The combined Leadership Group contributed to the final report.

"As an energy efficiency stakeholder, Orion Energy Systems is proud to join more than 60 organizations in making public statements and 82 organizations making commitments to advance the aggressive energy efficiency activities described in the National Action Plan," said Neal Verfuerth, CEO of Orion Energy Systems of Plymouth, WI. "We have long advocated the use of state and national planning for energy efficiency, because we know that it delivers large economic, environmental and new energy benefits for all of America."

The National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency identifies key barriers limiting the investment in energy efficiency. It also helps develop sound business practices for removing those barriers in order to encourage greater investment in energy efficiency by utilities and end-users, both commercial and residential, within the next five years.

It is estimated that NAPEE has the potential to slow the need for 40 new 500-megawatt power plants, which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions equal to removing 35 million cars from the roads. In addition to slowing the growth of energy demand and the energy rate increases, energy efficiency makes U.S. industry more globally competitive at a time when American jobs and economic growth are at stake.

"President Bush is helping change the way America powers its homes and businesses by lifting the barriers blocking investments in energy efficiency," said EPA Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock. "Smart power technology avoids greenhouse gas emissions, protects our nation's energy security, and saves money – a hat trick for our environment and our wallets."

About Orion

Orion Energy Systems has been innovating in the energy and lighting business since 1996. Orion Energy Services of Plymouth earned the 2006 first-place award in the 35th annual Governor's New Product Awards and was rated the highest by Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineer judges amongst all the other GNPA entrants. In 2005, Neal Verfuerth, President of Orion Energy Systems, received one of Wisconsin's most prestigious awards, Ernst & Young's Manufacturing Entrepreneur of the Year. In the same year, Orion Energy Systems was named Manufacturer of the Year for the second time. In addition, Orion also was the recipient of the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Award given by the Wisconsin DNR. In 2002, Orion also was named the Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Grand Award in the Emerging Growth category.

Orion is a designer and manufacturer of energy efficient lighting solutions for the school, gymnasium, manufacturing, warehousing, and commercial markets. Orion provides capacity displacement solutions for supply side management, transmission management, and demand side management for the electricity industry.

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